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By: **Delegates Murphy, Ports, Redmer, Kach, Klima, Glassman, Amedori,  
Getty, Boutin, Rzepkowski, Hutchins, Snodgrass, Elliott, Kittleman,  
Shank, Bartlett, and Brinkley**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2001  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - Presidential Electors**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the method of nominating presidential electors; requiring  
4 each political party to nominate one elector from each congressional district in  
5 the State and two electors at large; repealing the requirement that presidential  
6 electors be elected at large by the voters of the entire State; altering the  
7 procedures that presidential electors must follow when casting their ballot for  
8 president and vice president; and generally relating to nominations and  
9 responsibilities of presidential electors.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article 33 - Election Code  
12 Section 8-503 through 8-505  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article 33 - Election Code**

18 8-503.

19 (a) Each political party shall nominate or provide for the nomination of  
20 candidates for presidential elector of the party in accordance with party rules.

21 [(b) The number of candidates nominated by each political party shall be the  
22 number that this State is entitled to elect.]

23 (B) EACH POLITICAL PARTY SHALL NOMINATE:

24 (1) ONE ELECTOR FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THIS  
25 STATE; AND

1           (2)     TWO ELECTORS AT LARGE.

2       (c)     (1)     The names of individuals nominated as candidates for presidential  
3 elector by a political party shall be certified to the State Board by the presiding  
4 officers of the political party.

5           (2)     The names of individuals nominated as candidates for presidential  
6 elector by a candidate for President of the United States who is nominated by petition  
7 shall be certified to the State Board by the candidate on a form prescribed by the  
8 State Board.

9 8-504.

10       (a)     At the general election for President and Vice President of the United  
11 States there shall be elected, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the  
12 number of presidential electors to which this State is entitled. [Presidential electors  
13 shall be elected at large by the voters of the entire State.]

14       (b)     The names of the candidates for the office of presidential elector may not  
15 be printed on the ballot. A vote for the candidates for President and Vice President of  
16 a political party shall be deemed to be and counted as a vote for [each of] the  
17 presidential electors [of the political party] nominated BY THE CANDIDATES'  
18 POLITICAL PARTY in accordance with § 8-503 of this subtitle.

19 8-505.

20       (a)     The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall meet in the  
21 State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the Constitution and laws  
22 of the United States. The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the  
23 requirements of federal law.

24       (b)     (1)     Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the  
25 presidential electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of elector,  
26 whether the vacancy is caused by absence or other reason.

27           (2)     An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights and  
28 privileges of the duly elected electors.

29       (c)     After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland  
30 Constitution before the Clerk of the Court of Appeals or, in the Clerk's absence, before  
31 one of the Clerk's deputies[, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for the  
32 candidates for President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast  
33 in the State of Maryland]:

34           (1)     A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR ELECTED FROM A CONGRESSIONAL  
35 DISTRICT SHALL CAST HIS OR HER BALLOT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND  
36 VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VOTES  
37 CAST IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; AND

1           (2)     THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS ELECTED AT LARGE SHALL CAST  
2 THEIR BALLOTS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL  
3 CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VOTES CAST IN THE STATE  
4 OF MARYLAND.

5     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2001.